



## ECA Office for North Africa (SRO-NA)

Rabat, Monday 12 January 2026



Dear colleagues and partners,

A happy and a much successful new year 2026 to you, your families and your teams.

This third issue of our newsletter presents a summary of the ECA Office for North Africa's main events over the second half of 2025 as well as salient upcoming activities and opinions from our wider team at the [United Nations Economic Commission for Africa](#).

Last November in Rabat, Morocco, our office's 40<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee of Senior Officials and Experts (ICSOE) on the theme: "Enhancing domestic resource mobilization through innovation and technology in North Africa" provided an opportunity for our member countries to share many useful insights into the importance of increasing the efficiency of domestic resource mobilisation to underpin an accelerated, inclusive and sustainable development path that would be less exposed to the fluctuations of foreign aid and debt.

The new year 2026 will be marked by the organization, in Tangiers, Morocco, of the Fifty-eighth session of the Economic Commission for Africa's Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development on "[\*\*\*Growth through innovation: Harnessing data and frontier technologies for Africa's economic transformation.\*\*\*](#)"

Other key activities by our team will include support to Middle Income Countries (MIC) efforts to accelerate structural transformation, productivity gains, technology adoption and innovation and human resource development, and mobilise adequate and affordable finance from internal and external sources and address climate challenges.

2026 will also be the year I retire, thus concluding nearly forty years dedicated to university teaching, economic research, development and policy making and practice for a better future within academia, government, the private sector and the UN sector and other international organizations. I wish to express my sincere gratitude to our esteemed member states, partners, donors and colleagues for their support that made my UN tenure productive, rewarding and fulfilling.



Adam Elhiraika, Director  
ECA Office for North Africa (SRO-NA)

## ACTIVITIES

### North African countries need to innovate on resource mobilisation, harness remittances to build resilience against climate change

#### DOMESTIC RESOURCE MOBILIZATION

ECA concluded last November in Rabat, its 40<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee of Senior Officials and Experts (ICSOE) with recommendations to strengthen domestic resource mobilization through fiscal reforms, digital technologies, and innovation. Participants agreed on the importance for countries to develop resilient fiscal systems, data management, leverage remittances, and called on ECA to support sustainable finance, innovative digital technologies, and institutional development in support to fiscal sovereignty and climate resilience in North Africa.

[English](#)

[Français](#)

[عربي](#)

➡ Meeting [documents](#), [recordings](#) ([Day 1](#), [Day 2](#)) and [photos](#)

### Middle income trap: the case of North Africa

#### ECONOMIC GROWTH

ECA held in November a webinar on the Middle-income trap in North Africa. Discussions focused on growth challenges facing Algeria, Egypt, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco, and Tunisia—including climate change, declining multilateralism, and disruptive technologies—and explore tools and strategies to help these countries escape the middle-income trap.

[English](#)

[Français](#)

➡ Watch the [webinar](#)

### Climate change: North Africa needs a new development model

#### SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

In a webinar on “Leveraging climate finance for decent jobs in Africa, challenges and opportunities” held last October, ECA urged North African countries to adopt a low-carbon, resilient development model to address climate risks, protect growth, and create sustainable jobs. Key recommendations include green sector investment, vocational training, and innovative financing, with ECA supporting climate finance reform and policies for job creation.

[English](#)

[Français](#)

➡ Watch the [webinar](#)

### ECA, Tunisia discuss remittance contribution to national development, how to channel them towards investment MIGRATION

ECA and Tunisia organized in September 2025 a workshop to present Tunisia’s new experience in national planning and the mainstreaming of remittances into the Five-Year, 2026-2030, National Development Plan as alternative source of funding for national development. The workshop examined the experiences of other African countries in maximising the contribution of remittances to national development and South-South cooperation.

[English](#)

[Français](#)





## **ECA, Libya prepare the ground for e-commerce in Libya**

### **FINANCING DEVELOPMENT**

Last September, ECA held a workshop to strengthen the Libyan Tax Authority's capacity to tax e-commerce, digital economy taxation, audits, registration, compliance, and inter-agency coordination. The training came in support to Libya's efforts to diversify public revenues, modernize tax administration, and reduce the country's dependence on hydrocarbons.

[English](#)

[Français](#)

[عربي](#)

## **AfCFTA: women & youth led SMEs key for economic diversification and growth**

### **TRADE**

In September 2025, ECA held a capacity-building workshop aimed at youth- and women-led SMEs in Libya and Tunisia, in partnership with the Libyan Ministry of Economy and Trade and the Tunisian Ministry of Economy and Planning. The workshop concluded a series of online trainings that benefited 35 SMEs and cooperatives with the aim of improving their access to finance, digital capabilities, sustainable practices, and opportunities within the framework of the AfCFTA.

[English](#)

[Français](#)

## **ECA, Egypt train officials to streamline taxation in the shipping sector**

### **DOMESTIC RESOURCE MOBILIZATION**

ECA and the Egyptian Tax Authority held last August in Egypt a capacity building workshop on taxing the shipping sector. The training aimed to increase the capacity of tax officials, supervisors and auditors' ability to review large taxpayers' contributions in Alexandria, Hurgada and Cairo to understand and navigate the complexities, tax compliance and financial reports of the shipping sector.

[English](#)

[Français](#)

[عربي](#)

## **Improved taxation systems key to reducing Libya's dependence on oil revenues**

### **DOMESTIC RESOURCE MOBILIZATION**

Last July, ECA held, in partnership with the Egyptian Taxation Administration, a capacity building workshop on Modernizing Libya's Tax System with a focus on E-Taxation Services. The training aimed to enhance the Libyan tax authority's practical knowledge of international best practices, strengthen their ability to set an efficient e-taxation system and help improve public revenue.

[English](#)

[Français](#)

[عربي](#)

## **ECA strengthens capacity of Libyan trade institutions and enterprises to implement AfCFTA**

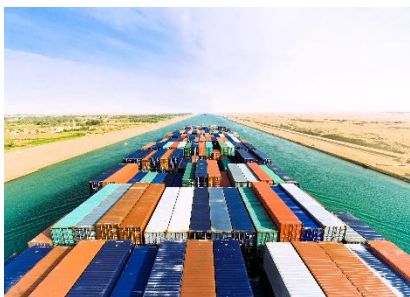
### **TRADE**

ECA held last July a capacity building workshop on "Unlocking Libya's private sector potential – towards an active role in AfCFTA application," in collaboration with the Libyan Ministry of Economy and Trade.

Key topics included policies to increase the national exporter base; requirements for Libyan businesses to improve their capacity for export; potential export markets for Libyan products and trade logistics.

[English](#)

[Français](#)







## ECA, Egypt join efforts to improve sustainable debt management practices

### DOMESTIC RESOURCE MOBILIZATION

ECA held in July, in partnership with the Government of Egypt and Global Sovereign Advisory (GSA) a capacity building workshop on Debt Sustainability Analysis to strengthen sustainable debt management practices. Topics included borrowing cost analysis, financial and economic implications of sovereign debt, national debt portfolio optimization, financial risks, debt sustainability analysis as per the IMF framework and sovereign financing options.

[English](#)

[Français](#)

[عربي](#)



## Reparations for Africans must transform the systems that still limit Africa's future

### AFRICA RENEWAL

**By Claver Gatete, Executive Secretary of the ECA**

[...] *For the first time, the African Union has placed reparations at the center of its continental agenda [...]. This commitment invites us to confront a painful past – but more importantly – to redesign the systems that continue to constrain Africa's prospects today. To this end, reparations should correct deep structural imbalances so that Africa's land, people, and resources drive shared prosperity, not persistent inequality...*

[English](#)

[Français](#)

[عربي](#)



## TIC : La CEA et Google lancent un Réseau régional de données communes pour l'Afrique

### CONJONCTURES

L'initiative permettra de mettre en place une infrastructure de données publiques interopérable et basée sur l'intelligence artificielle pour l'Afrique, en intégrant des ensembles de données à fort impact provenant de tout le continent.

[Français](#)



## Africa urged to use remittances as a development springboard

### APA NEWS

At the Second World Summit for Social Development 2025 held in Doha Qatar, ECA urged African countries to use diasporas' remittances as a catalyst for national development and reduce dependence on foreign development aid.

[English](#)





## Africa is not going to COP30 in Belem empty-handed or with a begging bowl

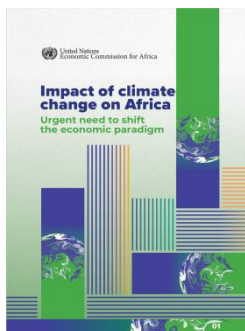
### THE EAST AFRICAN

By Claver Gatete, Executive Secretary of the ECA

*The continent has resolved to build modern, green, and inclusive industrial economies by harnessing its vast natural resources endowment and fostering international partnerships and solidarity to secure jobs, opportunity, and dignity for its people.*

[English](#)

[Français](#)



## Impact of climate change on Africa: An urgent need to shift the economic paradigm

### CLIMATE CHANGE

Africa is one of the world's regions most vulnerable to climate change, while its contribution to global emissions has been negligible. To date, its development model has not led to significant progress in terms of achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, while the continent has depleted part of its natural capital.

[English](#)

[French](#)



## Africa Sustainable Development Report 2025

### SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

The 2025 ASDR reviews the status of the implementation of the two Agendas in Africa and offers policy recommendations to facilitate their attainment. As in previous years, the 2025 report aligns with the theme and corresponding Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) selected by the High-Level Political Forum on sustainable development (HLPF) for any particular year.

Executive summary:

[English](#)

[Français](#)

Full report:

[English](#)

[Français](#)



## Delivering on the African Economic Community: Towards an African Continental Customs Union and African Continental Common Market

### REGIONAL INTEGRATION

This report presents the overarching messages, key findings, and policy recommendations of ARIA XI's seven chapters. It is aimed at all policymakers and stakeholders in Africa's continental integration. It provides important insights into the opportunities and challenges associated with transitioning to an African Continental Customs Union (AfCCU) and African Continental Common Market (AfCCOM).

[English](#)

[French](#)



## Cybersecurity for development in the fourth industrial revolution: research report

### CYBER SECURITY

This research report investigates the relationship between cybersecurity and development in the context of the Fourth Industrial Revolution, characterized by the Internet of Things and technological innovations. Analysing data from 40 African countries, the study reveals a strong correlation between cybersecurity maturity and economic growth, with a 10% increase in cybersecurity leading to significant GDP per capita gains.

[English](#)

[Français](#)



## Planning post-conflict reconstruction and development in the Sudan: Framework and lessons from international experiences

### POST CONFLICT RECOVERY

This report contains a detailed assessment of the post-conflict recovery needs in the Sudan and presents a structured strategy to guide the country's journey towards rehabilitation, the rebuilding of institutions, economic revitalization, reconstruction and sustainable peace.

[English](#)

[عربي](#)



## [Blog] From opportunity to action: Empowering SMEs in Libya and Tunisia through AfCFTA

### SME DEVELOPMENT

UNECA assessments show that Tunisian SMEs are digitally capable but weak in export readiness, while Libyan SMEs struggle with finance and low AfCFTA awareness. Findings will guide targeted training to strengthen SME competitiveness and integration into regional trade.

[English](#)

[French](#)



## [Blog] Technology is becoming the new backbone of fiscal transformation - Africa shows us how

### TAX REFORM

Around the world, governments are grappling with the question: how can we mobilise and protect the resources needed to fund development in an era of shrinking fiscal space? [...] Countries are turning to digital technologies as the new backbone of tax reform and public financial management, strengthening their ability to collect domestic revenue, safeguard it, allocate it transparently, and build trust with citizens...

[English](#)



## UPCOMING



### Systems thinking and system dynamics

#### ONLINE COURSE

12-31 January 2026

The course will improve participants ability to use a system thinking approach to better understand complex real-world problems. It will also increase their ability to recognize patterns, anticipate consequences, find innovative solutions, create and use dynamic models to simulate complex systems, such as organizations, industries, or ecosystems.

[English](#)

[Français](#)

### Social protection and care economy in Africa

#### ONLINE COURSE

26-27 January 2026

This course aims to provide middle and senior level officials and decision makers with comprehensive understanding of the social protection and care economy in Africa, including the design, financing, implementation and monitoring and evaluation of related policies and programs.

 **Application deadline: 24 January 2026**

[English](#)

[Français](#)

### Africa Business Forum (ABF) 2026: “Financing the future of Africa: jobs and innovation for sustainable transformation”

#### BUSINESS

**Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 16-17 February 2026**

Convened annually by ECA, in partnership with key stakeholders including the African Union Commission, ABF is held on the sidelines of the African Union Summit as a premier platform for high-level engagement among African Heads of State and Government, private sector leaders, development finance institutions, and international partners.

[English](#)

[Français](#)

### Combatting Illicit Financial Flows: Understanding Socio-Economic Impacts, Measurement Methodologies and Policy Interventions

#### ONLINE COURSE

12-15 March 2026

Illicit Financial Flows (IFFs) drain billions of dollars from developing countries each year, hampering investments in public goods, services and infrastructure for development. This course is organised for the benefit of statisticians, policy makers, law enforcement officials, regulators, legislators, researchers, journalists and civil society actors who need a rigorous yet accessible introduction to IFFs.

[English](#)

[Français](#)





## **Fifty-eighth session of the Economic Commission for Africa: Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development on “Growth through innovation: Harnessing data and frontier technologies for Africa’s economic transformation”**

### **NEW TECHNOLOGIES**

Tangiers, Morocco, 28 March-3 April, 2026

[English](#)

[Français](#)



## **Twelfth Session of the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development: “Turning the tide: Transformative and coordinated Actions for the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063”**

### **SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 28-30 April 2026

[English](#)

[Français](#)



**About us:** Based in Rabat (Morocco), the [Subregional Office for North Africa](#) of the [United Nations Economic Commission for Africa](#) (ECA) covers Algeria, Egypt, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco, the Sudan and Tunisia.

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